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Eastern District of California

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OROVILLE MAN SENTENCED TO 24 MONTHS IN PRISON AND ORDERED TO REPAY \$172,641 STOLEN FROM VETERANS

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that United States District Judge Edward J. Garcia sentenced WILLIAM EDWARD TURNER, 56, of Oroville, to 24 months in prison in a federal correctional institution for theft of government funds.

This case is a product of an investigation by the Department of Veteran's Affairs, Office of Inspector General, Criminal Investigations Division.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Russell L. Carlberg, who prosecuted the case, TURNER diverted \$172,621 of Veteran's Benefits intended for TURNER's mother to himself between 1988 and 2005.

TURNER's mother was entitled to Veteran's Benefits because her first husband was a veteran. TURNER placed his mother, into a convalescent home in 1986, around the time that TURNER's father died. TURNER quickly obtained a power of attorney and applied for Veteran's Benefits on his mother's behalf. Rather than having the money go to her, however, TURNER directed the checks to his own residence and proceeded to spend the money on himself.

On his mother's passing in 1996, TURNER did not inform the VA of her death, and he continued to cash monthly checks and keep the money for himself.

Judge Garcia sentenced the defendant to the top end of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines. In addition to two years incarceration, TURNER was ordered to repay the \$172,641 he stole from the VA, and was ordered to serve three years of supervised release following his prison term.

United States Attorney Scott stated, “Mr. TURNER has led a life of fraud, stealing from our nation’s veterans and their dependants.”

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